(c) Several laws have been enacted to secure reasonable working conditions for women workers and to prevent their exploitation. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, etc. which provide *inter alia*, creche facilities for the benefit of women workers, time off for feeding children during working hours, provision of maternity leave and separate toilets and washing facilities for female and male workers near the workplace. The various State Governments are the appropriate agencies for enforcing these laws.

Vacancies reserved for OBCs

†3179. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to form any panel to review the actions being taken to fill the vacancies reserved for backward castes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) Vacancies reserved for the backward classes are being filled up as per instructions issued from time to time.

Amendment to Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985

3180. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to amend the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 to remove the contempt power of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT);

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that the proposed amendment will leave the CAT completely powerless in effectively discharging its obligations under the Administrative Tribunals Act; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) In the light of Supreme Court judgement that writ jurisdiction of High Courts under Article 226/227 shall continue even after the setting up of the Tribunals and Administrative Tribunals shall be subject to such jurisdiction of High Courts, it was deemed necessary to review the powers to punish for contempt of the Tribunals. The High Courts as Courts of record already have the power to punish for contempt. It is, therefore, not necessary for the Administrative Tribunals to independently exercise the power to punish for contempt. Accordingly, the Government proposes to amend the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 to delete section 17 of the said Act relating to the power to punish for contempt of self.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. It is not correct to say that the proposed amendment will render Central Administrative Tribunal completely powerless to deal with contempt. It shall be ensured that the Administrative Tribunals have the same powers in the matter as all other courts under the jurisdiction of the respective High courts in the event of contempt.

Implementation of Hota Committee Recommendations

3181. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had constituted a Committee headed by Shri P.C. Hota, to examine the current situation of Civil Services in the country and to recommend reforms thereof;

(b) the details of the constituents of the said Committee and its items of reference;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Committee have already submitted its reports long back;

(d) if so, whether Government are contemplating to apprise Parliament of said report and also to implement its recommendations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?